

and are conveyed by said data medium;

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C10*  
means for generating apparatus protection data comprising a first set of data and a second set of data such that [said] said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said reproduction apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user, said first set of data being specific to a region or a country in which said reproduction apparatus is to be used;

*(1) con 15*  
means for defining a protection level based on said medium protection data and said apparatus protection data in combination; and

means for executing reproduction of said main data in accordance with said protection level.

19 (Amended). A reproduction protection method providing reproduction protection, for operating on main data which are conveyed by a data medium [and on medium protection data which are specific to said data medium and are conveyed by said data medium], the method comprising the steps of:

5 detecting medium protection data which are specific to said data medium and are conveyed by said data medium;

generating apparatus protection data comprising a first set of data and a second set of data such that said [said] first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said reproduction apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user, said first set of data

10 being specific to a region or a country in which said reproduction apparatus is to be used;  
*Sub*  
defining a protection level based on said medium protection data and said apparatus protection data in combination; and  
executing reproduction of said main data in accordance with said protection level.

20 (Amended). A data medium for transferring main data to a reproduction apparatus, to reproduce said main data by said reproduction apparatus, characterized in that:

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*Conn* 5  
said data medium further transfers medium protection data which are specific to said data medium;

said reproduction apparatus generates apparatus protection data [compromising] comprising a first set of data and a second set of data such that [said] said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said reproduction apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user, said first set of data being specific to a region or a country in which said reproduction apparatus is to be used, and[;]

10 said medium protection data and said apparatus protection data in combination specify a degree of restriction on said reproduction of the main data by said reproduction apparatus.

21 (Amended). A decoding apparatus providing decoding protection, for operating on information which is transferred through a media and comprises main data which are to be decoded and protection data, the apparatus comprising:

~~means for detecting said protection data;~~

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means for generating apparatus protection data comprising a first set of data and a second set of data such that [said] said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said [reproduction] decoding apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user, said first set of data being specific to a region or a country in which said [reproduction] decoding apparatus is to be used;

10 means for defining a protection level based on said protection data and said apparatus protection data, in combination; and

*(1) con'x*  
means for executing decoding of said main data in accordance with said protection level.

22 (Amended). A decoding protection method providing decoding protection in a decoding apparatus, for operating on information which is transferred through a media and comprises main data which are to be decoded and protection data, the method comprising the steps of:

5 detecting said protection data;

generating apparatus protection data comprising a first set of data and a second set of data such that [said] said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said decoding apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user, said first set of data being specific to a region or a country in which said [reproduction] decoding apparatus is to

*be used;*

*defining a protection level based on said protection data and said apparatus protection data, in combination; and*

*executing decoding of said main data in accordance with said protection level.*

Please add the following new claims:

*--23. The reproduction apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said protection level defining means defines said protection level based on a first data combination which is formed by combining said medium protection data with said first set of data or based on a combination of said first data combination with a second data combination which is formed by combining said medium protection data with said second set of data.*

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*24. The reproduction protection method according to claim 19, wherein said protection level is defined based on a first data combination which is formed by combining said medium protection data with said first set of data or based on a combination of said first data combination with a second data combination which is formed by combining said medium protection data with said second set of data.*

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*25. The data medium according to claim 20, wherein said degree of restriction is specified based on a first data combination which is formed by combining said medium*

protection data with said first set of data or based on a combination of said first data combination with a second data combination which is formed by combining said medium protection data with said second set of data.

26. The decoding apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said protection level defining means defines said protection level based on a first data combination which is formed by combining said medium protection data with said first set of data or based on a combination of said first data combination with a second data combination which is formed by combining said medium protection data with said second set of data.

27. The decoding protection method according to claim 22, wherein said protection level is defined based on a first data combination which is formed by combining said medium protection data with said first set of data or based on a combination of said first data combination with a second data combination which is formed by combining said medium protection data with said second set of data.

28. The reproduction apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said second set of

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data specifies operating condition information other than information which is specific to said region or country.

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29. The reproduction protection method according to claim 19, wherein said second set of data specifies operating condition information other than information which is specific to said region or country.

30. The data medium according to claim 20, wherein said second set of data specifies operating condition information other than information which is specific to said region or country.

31. The decoding apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said second set of data specifies operating condition information other than information which is specific to said region or country.

32. The decoding protection method according to claim 22, wherein said second set of data specifies operating condition information other than information which is specific to said region or country.--